A Brief Over-View of Ethics

Meta-Ethics

Normative-Ethics

Applied Ethics

Meta-Ethics

Interested in determining, amongst other things,

- the meaning of moral statements and moral terms (e.g. what does "good" mean?)

- Whether or not the moral statements (judgments) we make are things that can be true or false; or are moral statements merely emotional utterances?

Meta-Ethics

- If moral statements can be true or false, do they just express (indicate) something true or false about the speaker of the statement (Subjectivism)?

- Or, do moral statements express (indicate) something true or false about the external world, apart from persons (Objectivism)?

Normative Ethics

Interested in determining,

- What is it exactly that makes an action right (likewise, what is it that makes for wrong action?)
- What constitutes the Good Life?
- What are the principles that I should live my life by?

Normative Ethics

The Three Main Normative Ethical
Theories:

- Virtue Ethics

- Deontology

- Utilitarianism

- The difference between meta-ethics and normative ethics???

Applied Ethics

- Philosophically examine more practical (and more contemporary) moral issues e.g. abortion. Is it right or wrong, and why?